

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies therein.

Examination on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Cole  
Thomas W. Cole  
Registration No. 28,290

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128

(202) 585-8000